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MONTANA

EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE TRENDS

Volume 18, Number 4 4th Quarter 1988 Report

A Quarterly Publication Of The Research & Analysis Bureau

ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS AND EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK

Montana's Civilian Labor Force in the fourth quarter of 1988 shifted downward by only 600 workers from the previous quarter. This modest decline represents a normal seasonal pattern of outside work tapering off in the fall and winter, and was a much smaller decline than occurred in the fourth quarter of 1987--when the Civilian Labor Force declined by 7,700 workers.

The total average number of unemployed increased by 800 during the fourth quarter--2,400 less than the corresponding quarter in 1987.

The state of Montana was affected by extreme drought and fire conditions in 1988 that caused some fluctuations in Agriculture and Retail Trade (hotel and motel, eating and drinking) employment. Labor disputes in the construction and timber industries also impacted employment during the second half of 1988.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE MONTANA AND U.S.

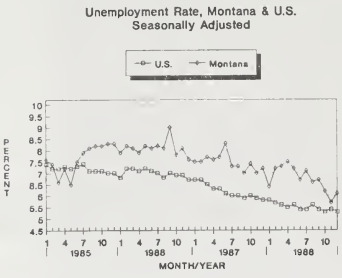
The seasonally-adjusted jobless rate for Montana at the end of the fourth quarter was 6.1 percent--while the U.S. rate was 5.3 percent. In December 1987, Montana's adjusted rate was slightly higher at 7.2 percent.

Montana Quarterly Trends

Quarter	CLF*	Employment	Unemployment	Rate
1988-4th	396.3	373.4	22.9	5.8%
1988-3rd	396.9	374.8	22.1	5.6%
1988-2nd	409.2	380.6	28.6	7.0%
1988-1st	399.9	362.8	37.1	9.3%
1987-4th	399.3	374.0	25.3	6.3%
1987-3rd	407.0	381.8	25.2	6.2%

*CLF-Civilian Labor Force (In Thousands)

PLEASE RETURN



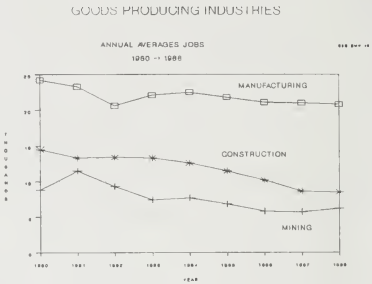
TOTAL NON-AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

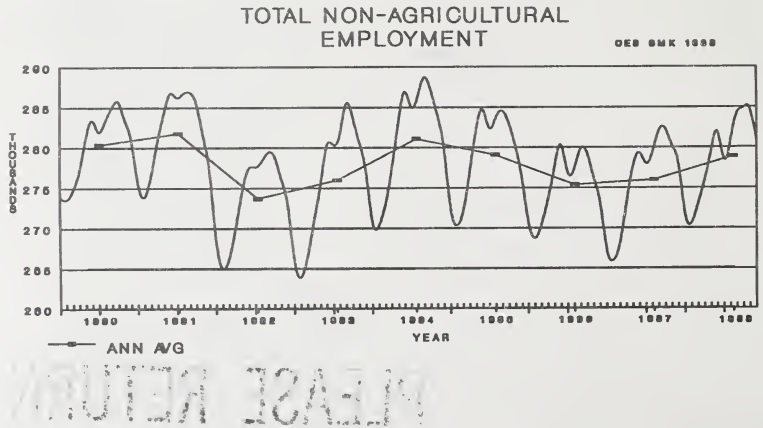
Total non-agricultural employment for the fourth quarter of 1988 indicates that employment averaged 3,000 more than for the same period in 1987. Fourth quarter 1988 employment made a sharp increase in November due to the hiring of temporary election workers. Although this was not atypical, Montana employment growth for the past two years has been positive.

The graph detailing Montana's total non-agricultural employment shows both the cyclical movement and the overlay of the annual averages. Employment for the past two years represents a positive trend (+ 1.06 percent).

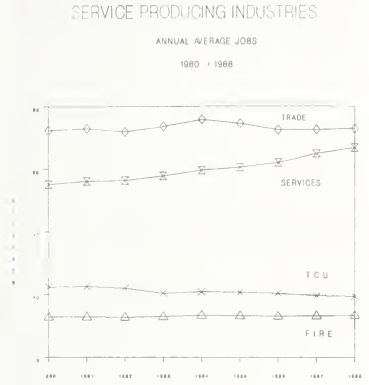
The downward trend in the goods-producing industries appears to have ended as Mining employment increased in 1988 from 5,700 to 6,100. The Construction employment pattern remained about the same as in 1987, while Manufacturing showed a loss of about 200 in 1988. This change was attributed to the labor dispute that occurred about mid year. The annual average employment for 1988 was 20,800.

Employment in Retail Trade remained constant for the past two years. In 1980, employment was 72,300--and increased to 75,900 in 1984. 1988 average employment in Retail Trade was 72,900.





The Service industry continued to expand from 55,100 jobs in 1980--to 66,900 in 1988. The major increases have been in the Medical Services industry.



Transportation, Communications, and Utilities have shown a steady decline in employment, but may have bottomed out in 1988. Employment went from a high of 22,400 in 1980 to approximately 19,400 in 1988.

Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate have remained virtually flat since 1980--when employment was 12,900. The annual average in 1988 was 13,400.

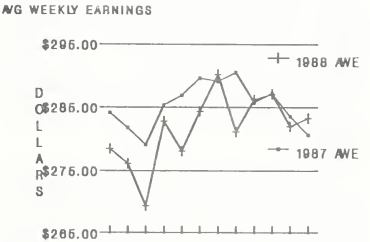
The number of jobs in Local Education has remained at 22,800 for the last two years--down from 23,100 in 1980. Local Government averaged 15,200 in 1988, while total Federal jobs have continued to rise from 12,700 in 1986 to 13,500 in 1988.

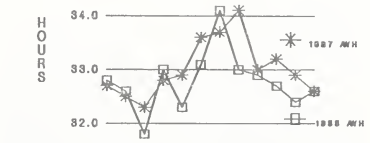
State Government employment averaged 10,600 in 1988, while State Education is up from a low of 7,800 in 1981 to 8,800 in 1988.

AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS AND EARNINGS

Average weekly earnings for December 1988 were $283.29--which was $2.60 more than for December 1987. The December increase was due to an increase in the average weekly hours in all major industries except Construction, Non-durable Manufacturing, and Wholesale Trade and Services.

Average hourly earnings went down by 2 cents in response to seasonal layoffs in higher-paying industries. Average hourly earnings were 8 cents more than last year.





HIGHLIGHTS BY INDUSTRY COMPONENTS

AGRICULTURE

A State Milk Control Bureau proposal for making major decreases in the price of milk received mixed reviews during a hearing before the Milk Control Board. While milk processors agreed that something has to be done to allow them to be more competitive with out-of-state milk prices, some said the proposal goes too far, and will drive smaller distributors and processing plants out of business. The bureau's proposal calls for large cuts in wholesale and retail milk prices. The retail cost for a gallon of whole milk, for example, would decrease from $2.57 to $2.18. The regular wholesale price would fall from $2.33 to $1.89.

More than 300 Montana farms with delinquent Farmers Home Administration loans could face foreclosure in the next one or two years. In November, the FmHA sent loan restructuring packets to 1,000 farmers across the state.

CONSTRUCTION

Construction began early in September on the $79.7 million project developed by the Colstrip Energy Limited Partnership. When completed in 1990, the plant will consume about 250,000 tons of coal a year, and produce 35 mega-watts of electricity to be sold to the Montana Power Company. The power plant's developers have estimated that the project will create 100 to 130 construction jobs, and 40 to 45 permanent positions.

MANUFACTURING

The nation's largest brake manufacturer recently opened a brake rebuilding operation in Billings. The shop relines brake shoes used in large trucks, buses and other vehicles. The operation employs five people, and should have 10 employees within the next two years. The local plant's annual business is expected to top $1 million.

An Arizona company wants to build an ammonium thiosulfate plant next to a Billings refinery that would reduce sulfur dioxide emissions from the local refinery. If the proposal is accepted, the construction of the plant would be about $7 million and will employ approximately 15 full-time workers.

Stone Container Corporation has announced a $15.5 million project that could eventually increase the Frenchtown mill's output by 20 percent. Construction is expected to start early this spring, with start up expected early in 1990. Once in operation, the process will employ 12 people. Eventually, it will require 16 people.

Two firms in the timber industry have spent nearly 10 years cutting trees faster than they can replace them on their combined 1.7 million acres in Western Montana, and the effects are beginning to be felt. A gap in the supply of timber on private land will mean more intense competition for timber on public land. Many feel that the shortages are close at hand.

In another report, timber sales on national forests in Montana last year cost taxpayers $15.6 million, losing money on every forest in the state, as reported by the U.S. Forest Service.Losses on timber sales are figured by measuring the costs of preparing a sale, such as road building--against sale income, which is

paid by timber firms to harvest trees on federal forests.

A musical instrument manufacturing firm has come a long way from its humble beginnings in a back room on the second floor of the Bozeman Hotel. The firm has moved into a new 22,000 square foot manufacturing plant, and should be in operation by April 1989. The move will create about 25 permanent full-time jobs.

MINING

Major mining was renewed in Southwestern Montana, with about 100 new jobs created this summer at a mine near Basin. Twenty more miners started working full time at a site near Georgetown Lake; and another 40 spent the summer reworking placers near Gold Creek after receiving an operating permit early in the year.

A Colorado-based firm has announced a proposal to develop a gold and silver mine eight miles west of Lake Mary Ronan after an earlier proposal was abandoned due to low silver prices and a lack of available water for ore processing.

RETAIL TRADE

A new, three-year labor contract was ratified by a Billings grocery clerks union. The agreement covers about 350 members of the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 33. The workers will receive a 15 cent-per-hour pay increase. The new pact also calls for clerks to be paid time-and-a-half wages on Easter Sunday, a 5 cent-per-hour increase in pension contributions and higher employer health and welfare contributions in 1989 and 1990.

Tourist spending in Montana during the prime summer months increased $27 million this year despite a series of wildfires that swept through Yellowstone National Park and several areas of the state. The summer increase represented a 13 percent growth in spending to about $390 million for July, August and September.

SERVICES

A hospital in Missoula announced that it was planning to reduce its 900-member staff by the equivalent of 60 full-time workers. This came as a complete surprise to the labor relations director of the Montana Nurses Association. The association had just completed a new contract with the hospital in August, and wasn't aware of the hospital's financial difficulties until October. In addition to the layoffs, the hospital said it intended to cut the pay of all employees by 10 percent. The nurses, however, would have to agree to reopen the contract in order for the cuts to take place. In December the hospital reversed itself, and will not seek cuts in pay and benefits--but its planned austerity program will still include layoffs.

Nearly 9 percent of the full-time jobs for registered nurses in Montana are unfilled--slightly less than the national average vacancy rate of 11 percent, according to a survey conducted by the Montana Hospital Association. Hospital and nursing administrators from hospitals and nursing homes responded to the survey. Fifty-six percent of the responses were from hospitals, and 43 percent were from nursing homes.

GOVERNMENT

The Census Bureau reported that Montana, ten other states, and the District of

Columbia lost population from 1985 to 1988. Although losses were noted, the 1988 data indicate that the declines may be slowing--and that several of these states may have grown in the past year.

Fifty-eight Billings businesses were honored by Job Connection Incorporated for hiring people with disabilities. The majority of disabled people placed in jobs had never held jobs before because of the severity of their handicaps. The average hourly wage for these employees is $3.45. They work an average of 21 hours a week.

PILT, or payments in lieu of taxes, are made annually to compensate counties for the property taxes that cannot be collected on federal land. In all, Montana will receive $8.3 million in PILT money for 1988.

Non-farm personal income in Montana grew 4.2 percent during the year ending June 30. This was among the slowest growth rates in the nation. The State Commerce Department reported that Montana's growth rate for personal income exceeded only that of Alaska and Wyoming.

A bank economist says that Montanans will enjoy a modest growth in personal income over the next two years. The bank economist believes the state's economy is beginning to stabilize after two years of decline, and may show a growth of 0.5 percent--which would mean about 1,000 new jobs statewide. But even at that, Montana and other Rocky Mountain states will continue to lag behind the rest of the nation according to the economist.

PLEASE NOTE: Montana has completed its new 1989 Benchmark Data Series for the calendar years 1978 through 1988. The first issue of the "Quarterly Labor Force" publication in 1989 will have the updated annual average tables for the Current Employment Series and the Current Population Series.

TABLE I-A
MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY 88BMK
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA OCTOBER 1988

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	392087	372580	19507	5.0
CASCADE	35158	33465	1693	4.8
YELLOWSTONE	57881	55422	2459	4.2
BEAVERHEAD	4887	4671	216	4.4
BIG HORN	4678	4213	465	9.9
BLAINE	3518	3336	182	5.2
BROADWATER	1516	1449	67	4.4
CARBON	3793	3609	184	4.9
CARTER	965	946	19	2.0
CHOUTEAU	2733	2664	69	2.5
CUSTER	6409	6225	184	2.9
DANIELS	1204	1187	17	1.4
DAWSON	5477	5312	165	3.0
DEER LODGE	4166	3843	323	7.8
FALLON	1450	1402	48	3.3
FERGUS	5745	5472	273	4.8
FLATHEAD	29005	27013	1992	6.9
GALLATIN	24863	23980	883	3.6
GARFIELD	872	865	7	.8
GLACIER	5379	4887	492	9.1
GOLDEN VALLEY	546	527	19	3.5
GRANITE	1358	1267	91	6.7
HILL	8335	7962	373	4.5
JEFFERSON	5568	5332	236	4.2
JUDITH BASIN	1380	1332	48	3.5
LAKE	10113	9557	556	5.5
LEWIS AND CLARK	25828	24695	1133	4.4
LIBERTY	925	916	9	1.0
LINCOLN	8497	7865	632	7.4
MC CONE	1333	1307	26	2.0
MADISON	3198	3051	147	4.6
MEAGHER	1113	1078	35	3.1
MINERAL	1484	1367	117	7.9
MISSOULA	40299	38428	1871	4.6
MUSSELSHELL	1765	1693	72	4.1
PARK	5725	5361	364	6.4
PETROLEUM	298	283	15	5.0
PHILLIPS	2786	2684	102	3.7
PONDERA	2955	2873	82	2.8
POWDER RIVER	1415	1363	52	3.7
POWELL	2984	2893	91	3.0
PRAIRIE	776	722	54	7.0
RAVALLI	11169	10331	838	7.5
RICHLAND	5915	5666	249	4.2
ROOSEVELT	5548	5215	333	6 0
ROSEBUD	5146	4793	353	6.9
SANDERS	3274	2954	320	9.8
SHERIDAN	2535	2470	65	2.6
SILVER BOW	13490	12607	883	6.5
STILLWATER	3036	2945	91	3.0
SWEET GRASS	1423	1388	35	2.5
TETON	3123	3041	82	2.6
TOOLE	2334	2234	100	4.3
TREASURE	448	437	11	2.5
VALLEY	4567	4385	182	4.0
WHEATLAND	1139	1070	69	6.1
WIBAUX	560	527	33	5.9

TABLE I-B
MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY 88BMK
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA NOVEMBER 1988

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	403670	379578	24092	6.0
CASCADE	36501	34394	2107	5.8
YELLOWSTONE	60120	56937	3183	5.3
BEAVERHEAD	4969	4683	286	5.8
BIG HORN	4700	4273	427	9.1
BLAINE	3681	3376	305	8.3
BROADWATER	1583	1491	92	5.8
CARBON	3982	3737	245	6.2
CARTER	984	963	21	2.1
CHOUTEAU	2801	2729	72	2.6
CUSTER	6437	6211	226	3.5
DANIELS	1352	1228	124	9.2
DAWSON	5657	5426	231	4.1
DEER LODGE	4160	3825	335	8.1
FALLON	1498	1440	58	3.9
FERGUS	6005	5570	435	7.2
FLATHEAD	30307	27774	2533	8.4
GALLATIN	25574	24436	1138	4.4
GARFIELD	887	883	4	.5
GLACIER	5438	4787	651	12.0
GOLDEN VALLEY	593	567	26	4.4
GRANITE	1350	1271	79	5.9
HILL	8623	8156	467	5.4
JEFFERSON	5671	5434	237	4.2
JUDITH BASIN	1409	1358	51	3.6
LAKE	10571	9835	736	7.0
LEWIS AND CLARK	26465	25195	1270	4.8
LIBERTY	966	925	41	4.2
LINCOLN	8702	7976	726	8.3
MC CONE	1327	1304	23	1.7
MADISON	3096	2996	100	3.2
MEAGHER	1127	1086	41	3.6
MINERAL	1409	1285	124	8.8
MISSOULA	41326	39145	2181	5.3
MUSSELSHELL	1773	1696	77	4.3
PARK	5815	5362	453	7.8
PETROLEUM	295	287	8	2.7
PHILLIPS	2783	2659	124	4.5
PONDERA	3059	2925	134	4.4
POWDER RIVER	1417	1379	38	2.7
POWELL	3143	3015	128	4.1
PRAIRIE	755	717	38	5.0
RAVALLI	11575	10427	1148	9.9
RICHLAND	6229	5787	442	7.1
ROOSEVELT	5569	5140	429	7.7
ROSEBUD	5193	4873	320	6.2
SANDERS	3315	2978	337	10.2
SHERIDAN	2620	2524	96	3.7
SILVER BOW	13895	12918	977	7.0
STILLWATER	3158	2989	169	5.4
SWEET GRASS	1450	1416	34	2.3
TETON	3097	2982	115	3.7
TOOLE	2360	2251	109	4.6
TREASURE	454	445	9	2.0
VALLEY	4687	4469	218	4.7
WHEATLAND	1160	1104	56	4.8
WIBAUX	597	539	58	9.7

TABLE I-C
MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY 88EMK
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA DECEMBER 1988

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	393001	368040	24961	6.4
CASCADE	35252	33121	2131	6.0
YELLOWSTONE	58354	55268	3086	5.3
BEAVERHEAD	4784	4513	271	5.7
BIG HORN	4420	3940	480	10.9
BLAINE	3429	3171	258	7.5
BROADWATER	1504	1401	103	6.8
CARBON	3865	3604	261	6.8
CARTER	853	847	6	.7
CHOUTEAU	2624	2536	88	3.4
CUSTER	6311	6007	304	4.8
DANIELS	1179	1135	44	3.7
DAWSON	5571	5319	252	4.5
DEER LODGE	4133	3723	410	9.9
FALLON	1459	1367	92	6.3
FERGUS	5682	5277	405	7.1
FLATHEAD	29714	27330	2384	8.0
GALLATIN	25283	24186	1097	4.3
GARFIELD	798	794	4	.5
GLACIER	5377	4794	583	10.8
GOLDEN VALLEY	515	487	28	5.4
GRANITE	1354	1262	92	6.8
HILL	8208	7722	486	5.9
JEFFERSON	5554	5282	272	4.9
JUDITH BASIN	1330	1240	90	6.8
LAKE	10240	9397	843	8.2
LEWIS AND CLARK	26134	24831	1303	5.0
LIBERTY	898	856	42	4.7
LINCOLN	8538	7750	788	9.2
MC CONE	1248	1208	40	3.2
MADISON	3030	2851	179	5.9
MEAGHER	1091	1012	79	7.2
MINERAL	1416	1254	162	11.4
MISSOULA	40609	38164	2445	6.0
MUSSELSHELL	1717	1614	103	6.0
PARK	5726	5181	545	9.5
PETROLEUM	268	253	15	5.6
PHILLIPS	2660	2511	149	5.6
PONDERA	2936	2761	175	6.0
POWDER RIVER	1301	1277	24	1.8
POWELL	3008	2874	134	4.5
PRAIRIE	739	664	75	10.1
RAVALLI	11480	10122	1358	11.8
RICHLAND	5816	5494	322	5.5
ROOSEVELT	6158	5843	315	5.1
ROSEBUD	4970	4670	300	6.0
SANDERS	3254	2842	412	12.7
SHERIDAN	2473	2374	99	4.0
SILVER BOW	13697	12733	964	7.0
STILLWATER	3043	2879	164	5.4
SWEET GRASS	1354	1312	42	3.1
TETON	2786	2648	138	5.0
TOOLE	2251	2128	123	5.5
TREASURE	420	411	9	2.1
VALLEY	4495	4259	236	5.3
WHEATLAND	1136	1033	103	9.1
WIBAUX	556	508	48	8.6

TABLE II
M O N T A N A

STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

(IN THOUSANDS)

1988

	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUN.	JUL.	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	AV
(RESIDENCE DATA)													
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS1/.....	397.0	399.5	403.1	408.1	407.4	412.2	397.9	401.6	391.3	392.1	403.7	393.0	400.6
EMPLOYED PERSONS.....	359.1	363.1	366.1	376.5	379.8	385.6	373.2	378.6	372.6	372.6	379.6	368.0	372.9
LABOR MANAGEMENT DISPUTE2/	*	*	*	*	*	1.0	1.8	1.8	*	*	*	*	.4
PERSONS EMPLOYED IN AGRICULTURE.....	23.0	26.8	29.2	36.5	38.5	40.2	39.2	40.5	32.1	30.3	30.3	26.2	32.7
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS.....	37.9	36.4	37.0	31.6	27.6	26.6	24.7	23.0	18.7	19.5	24.1	25.0	27.7
PERCENT OF LABOR FORCE, UNADJUSTED 3/..	9.5%	9.1%	9.2%	7.7%	6.8%	6.5%	6.2%	5.7%	4.8%	5.0%	6.0%	6.4%	6.9%
PERCENT OF LABOR FORCE, SEASONALLY ADJ.	7.7%	7.4%	7.6%	7.1%	7.2%	6.8%	6.8%	6.7%	6.3%	6.3%	6.4%	6.4%	6.9%
U.S. UNADJUSTED.....	6.3%	6.2%	5.9%	5.3%	5.4%	5.5%	5.5%	5.4%	5.2%	5.0%	5.2%	5.0%	5.5%
U.S. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED.....	5.8%	5.7%	5.6%	5.4%	5.6%	5.3%	5.4%	5.6%	5.4%	5.3%	5.4%	5.3%	5.5%
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA) 1988													
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS.....	268.7	268.3	270.3	272.3	275.5	278.8	272.6	276.4	280.2	281.0	283.4	277.3	275.4
TOTAL PRIVATE.....	199.4	198.5	200.1	202.0	205.2	208.2	209.4	211.8	210.4	210.2	208.6	208.0	206.0
MANUFACTURING.....	20.6	20.4	20.1	20.2	20.6	20.4	20.4	20.2	21.3	21.6	21.1	21.1	20.7
MINING.....	5.6	5.7	5.9	5.9	5.9	6.1	6.2	6.6	6.2	6.2	6.0	5.7	6.0
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION.....	7.0	6.6	6.9	8.2	9.1	9.8	9.7	10.4	10.3	10.1	9.6	8.4	8.9
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES...	19.1	19.0	18.9	18.8	19.0	19.3	19.2	19.2	19.3	19.4	19.5	19.7	19.2
TRADE.....	70.9	70.1	71.1	72.0	72.8	74.2	74.2	75.1	74.0	73.8	73.9	74.6	73.1
WHOLESALE TRADE.....	14.6	14.4	14.6	14.9	14.9	15.0	15.3	15.4	15.2	15.0	15.0	15.1	15.0
RETAIL TRADE.....	56.3	55.7	56.5	57.1	57.9	59.2	58.9	59.7	58.8	58.7	58.8	59.5	58.1
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE....	12.6	12.6	12.5	12.4	12.5	12.6	12.7	12.7	12.6	12.5	12.4	12.4	12.5
SERVICES.....	63.6	64.1	64.7	64.5	65.3	65.8	67.0	67.6	66.7	66.6	66.1	66.2	65.7
GOVERNMENT.....	69.3	69.8	70.2	70.3	70.3	70.6	63.2	64.6	69.8	70.8	74.7	69.2	69.4
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.....	11.9	11.7	11.7	11.9	12.1	13.2	13.3	14.4	14.8	13.1	12.8	12.3	12.8
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.....	57.4	58.1	58.5	58.4	58.2	57.3	49.8	50.2	55.1	57.6	61.9	56.9	56.6

1/ ESTIMATES BASED ON NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD SAMPLE, CENSUS AND OTHER RELATIONSHIPS: INCLUDES SELF-EMPLOYED, UNPAID FAMIL AND DOMESTIC WORKERS. CURRENT MONTH PRELIMINARY. REVISED TO 1987 BENCHMARKS.
2/ NON-ADDITIVE - INCLUDED IN TOTAL EMPLOYMENT.
3/ COMPUTED FROM WHOLE (UNROUNDED) NUMBERS. ESTABLISHMENT SERIES BEGAN JANUARY 1964; RESIDENCE SERIES IN JANUARY 1970
SOURCE FOR RESIDENCE DATA: SEE TECHNICAL NOTES 5-1 AND 5-2 ON FINAL PAGE.
SOURCE FOR ESTABLISHMENT DATA: SEE TECHNICAL NOTE 5-4 ON FINAL PAGE.
* UNDER 50.

TABLE III

MONTANA HOURS & EARNINGS

For Private Nonagricultural Production Workers

	Production Employment (In Thousands)				Average Weekly Earnings			
	Dec. 1988	Nov. 1988	Oct. 1988	Dec. 1987	Dec. 1988	Nov. 1988	Oct. 1988	Dec. 1987
TOTAL PRIVATE	171.0	171.6	172.9	168.0	$282.32	$281.01	$286.45	$281.66
MANUFACTURING	15.3	15.4	15.8	15.6	440.10	424.00	424.11	405.60
Durable Goods	10.5	10.6	10.6	10.7	446.01	423.80	428.63	402.73
Non-Durable	4.8	4.8	5.2	4.9	426.38	425.17	415.16	411.67
MINING	4.5	4.8	4.8	4.4	554.61	510.38	529.23	543.24
CONSTRUCTION	6.2	7.3	7.8	6.0	547.19	549.55	572.40	531.02
*TCU	16.5	16.4	16.3	16.4	462.94	459.55	467.86	461.52
Transportation	10.6	10.5	10.4	10.3	423.87	425.25	436.46	399.00
Communications	5.9	5.9	5.9	6.1	531.69	520.22	522.50	566.78
TRADE	65.7	65.0	64.8	64.1	202.27	198.02	202.72	203.06
Wholesale Trade	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.3	329.24	322.50	333.24	337.75
Retail Trade	53.3	52.6	52.4	51.8	172.17	168.56	171.46	171.41
**FIRE	9.3	9.4	9.5	9.6	253.75	248.75	248.40	247.43
SERVICES	53.5	53.3	53.9	52.0	233.32	235.62	234.39	240.66

	Average Weekly Hours				Average Hourly Earnings			
	Dec. 1988	Nov. 1988	Oct. 1988	Dec. 1987	Dec. 1988	Nov. 1988	Oct. 1988	Dec. 1987
TOTAL PRIVATE	32.6	32.3	32.7	32.7	$ 8.66	$ 8.70	$ 8.76	$ 8.64
MANUFACTURING	40.6	39.7	40.2	39.0	10.84	10.68	10.55	10.40
Durable Goods	41.8	40.4	40.9	39.1	10.67	10.49	10.48	10.30
Non-Durable	37.9	38.2	38.8	38.8	11.25	11.13	10.70	10.61
MINING	39.7	37.2	38.8	40.3	13.97	13.72	13.64	13.48
CONSTRUCTION	37.3	37.9	40.0	36.8	14.67	14.50	14.31	14.43
*TCU	36.8	36.1	36.1	37.1	12.58	12.73	12.96	12.44
Transportation	35.8	35.0	35.6	35.0	11.84	12.15	12.26	11.40
Communications, Utilities.	38.5	38.0	36.9	40.6	13.81	13.69	14.16	13.96
TRADE	30.1	29.6	29.9	29.6	6.72	6.69	6.78	6.86
Wholesale Trade	36.3	36.4	36.7	36.2	9.07	8.86	9.08	9.33
Retail Trade	28.6	28.0	28.2	28.1	6.02	6.02	6.08	6.10
**FIRE	35.0	34.5	34.5	34.8	7.25	7.21	7.20	7.12
SERVICES	30.7	30.8	30.8	31.5	7.60	7.65	7.61	7.64

*Transportation/Communications/Utilities

**Finance/Insurance/Real Estate

Production workers are non supervisory and non government payroll personnel.

Source: See technical note S-4 on final page.

TABLE IV

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - U.S.

ALL ITEMS

(1982-1984 = 100)

	1988		1987		1986	
	CPI-U	CPI-W	CPI-U	CPI-W	CPI-U	CPI-W
January	115.7	114.5	111.2	110.0	109.6	108.9
February	116.0	114.7	111.6	110.5	109.3	108.5
March	116.5	115.1	112.1	111.0	108.8	107.9
April	117.1	115.7	112.7	111.6	108.6	107.6
May	117.5	116.2	113.1	111.9	108.9	107.9
June	118.0	116.7	113.5	112.4	109.5	108.4
July	118.5	117.2	113.8	112.7	109.5	108.4
August	119.0	117.7	114.4	113.3	109.7	108.6
September	119.8	118.5	115.0	113.8	110.2	109.1
October	120.2	118.9	115.3	114.1	110.3	109.1
November	120.3	119.0	115.4	114.3	110.4	109.2
December	120.5	119.2	115.4	114.2	110.5	109.3
Dec-to-Dec %	4.4%	4.4%	4.4%	4.5%	1.1%	0.6%
AVERAGE:	118.3	117.0	113.6	112.5	109.6	108.6
Ann Avg %	4.1%	4.0%	3.6%	3.6%	1.9%	1.6%

		Percent Change From			
Expenditure Category	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.	Dec.	Dec.
CPI-U Index	1988	1988	1988	1987	1986
ALL ITEMS	120.5	0.2	0.2	4.4	9.0
Food & Beverages	120.6	0.3	0.2	5.0	8.7
Housing	120.2	0.3	0.3	4.0	7.8
Apparel & Upkeep	118.0	-1.6	-1.6	4.7	9.8
Transportation	110.8	0.1	0.7	3.0	9.3
Medical Care	142.3	0.4	0.8	6.9	13.1
Entertainment	122.8	0.5	0.8	4.6	8.8
Other Goods & Services	141.3	0.2	0.5	7.0	13.5

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures changes in prices of goods and services in major expenditure groups. The CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) covers about 40 percent of the total noninstitutional population. The CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) covers about 80 percent of the total noninstitutional population, including wage earners and clerical workers, salaried workers, the self-employed, retirees, and the unemployed.

Table V

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

AS	Oct To Dec 1988	Oct To Dec 1987	Year-to-Date 1988	Year-to-Date 1987
TE OF MONTANA	779	750	3396	3421
AT FALLS MSA	62	68	290	267
LINGS MSA	112	105	501	495
TI COUNTY BUSINESS	52	55	272	227
CONDA-BUTTE LFA	49	55	261	271
EAVERHEAD	7	8	38	40
EER LODGE	2	5	24	22
RANITE	3	5	18	16
ADISON	11	5	34	42
OWELL	1	5	21	19
ILVER BOW	25	27	126	132
EMAN LFA	74	75	313	288
ALLATIN	56	59	236	220
EAGHER	5	1	12	5
ARK	13	15	65	63
ASCOW LFA	17	13	83	83
DANIELS	1	0	10	3
PHILLIPS	5	3	16	11
ROOSEVELT	7	5	22	22
SHERIDAN	3	2	12	13
VALLEY	1	3	23	34
ENDIVE LFA	18	14	75	73
DAWSON	8	5	24	30
GARFIELD	3	1	6	2
MCCONE	0	0	7	3
PRAIRIE	0	1	2	3
RICHLAND	6	7	35	31
WIBAUX	1	0	1	4
RDIN-RED LODGE LFA	20	16	91	84
BIG HORN	5	5	25	28
CARBON	7	6	30	27
STILLWATER	5	1	23	10
SWEET GRASS	3	4	13	19

AREAS	Oct To Dec 1988	Oct To Dec 1987	Year-to-Date 1988	Year-to-Date 1987
HAVRE LFA	28	16	69	60
BLAINE	6	2	15	10
HILL	19	12	48	43
LIBERTY	3	2	6	7
HELENA LFA	41	65	218	288
BROADWATER	2	3	17	13
JEFFERSON	1	9	20	35
LEWIS & CLARK	38	53	181	240
KALISPELL LFA	105	104	462	500
FLATHEAD	66	59	292	320
LAKE	19	21	76	82
LINCOLN	20	24	94	98
LEWISTOWN LFA	24	15	92	80
FERGUS	15	14	52	57
GOLDEN VALLEY	4	0	6	0
JUDITH BASIN	1	0	16	8
MUSSELSHELL	1	0	8	10
PETROLEUM	1	0	1	2
WHEATLAND	2	1	9	3
MILES CITY LFA	19	19	77	107
CARTER	2	0	4	3
CUSTER	6	6	20	42
FALLON	2	4	9	12
POWDER RIVER	2	1	11	9
ROSEBUD	5	8	28	37
TREASURE	2	0	5	4
MISSOULA LFA	129	111	486	508
MINERAL	4	4	8	14
MISSOULA	91	79	330	348
RAVALLI	28	21	122	106
SANDERS	6	7	26	40
SHELBY-CUT BANK LFA	29	19	106	90
CHOUTEAU	4	2	17	12
GLACIER	12	8	37	30
PONDERA	4	3	12	12
TETON	6	3	18	16
TOOLE	3	3	22	20

ıe new business tally includes successors to active accounts (an established business with a new owner) which amounts) nearly one-third of the total new businesses.

ource: See technical note S-6 on final page.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. Civilian Labor Force - the number of persons 16 years and older, defined as employed or unemployed, excluding members of the armed forces.

2. Employed - those persons who work for pay or profit during a week or, as unpaid family workers, work 15 hours or more during a week. Also included as employed are those who although not working had some job attachment and were not looking for work, including persons temporarily absent from a job due to illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor dispute, whether or not they were in a pay status during their time off.

3. Unemployed - those persons who, for an entire week, did not work at all, were able to work and available for work, and (1) were looking for work or (2) would have looked for work except that (a) they were waiting to return to a job from which they had been laid off, or (b) they were waiting to report to a new wage and salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days (and were not in school during the week).

4. Unemployment Rate - the number of unemployed expressed as a percent of the civilian labor force.

5. Residence Data - a count of people by where people live.

6. Establishment Data - a count of jobs by where people work.

7. Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Series - to facilitate the evaluation of the labor force, recurrent yearly movements have been isolated and removed using the X-11 ARIMA method of seasonal adjustment. This is the same method used by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to seasonally adjust the national labor force series.

8. MSA - Metropolitan Statistical Area - as determined by the Office of Management and Budget. The MSA must have a central city with a population of 50,000 or more.

9. LFA - Labor Force Area as determined by the Research and Analysis Bureau, Montana Department of Labor and Industry, consists of a central city or cities with a population of less than 50,000 and the economically integrated geographical area surrounding it.

10. SDA - The Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) was established to replace CETA in job search, placement, relocation, and especially training assistance. Each state designs local plans for JTPA programs through a Private Industry Council (PIC). Each PIC jurisdiction is known as Service Delivery Area (SDA). The two SDA's for Montana are known as Rural CEP (Beaverhead, Broadwater, Deer Lodge, Granite, Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, Madison, Meagher, Powell, and Silver Bow counties) and Balance of State (the other 46 counties).

11. BENCHMARKING - It is a continuous process of establishing a new set of data which affects the series of estimates through revisions. Once a new benchmark is established, the adjustments to estimates between the new benchmark and the preceding one are carried forward progressively to the current month by use of sample trends. The benchmark is established less frequently (usually once a year) based on sample or secondary data. In the case of employment data, the benchmark is used to establish the level of employment, while the sample is primarily used to measure the month - to - month changes in the level.

12. CES-790 Program - current employment statistics survey produces monthly estimates of a wide variety of employment and earnings information for the nation and each state.

SOURCES OF DATA

S-1. Prepared by the Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Research and Analysis Bureau, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). LAUS data (Local Area Unemployment Statistics program) are adjusted to the Current Population Survey benchmark and are the official BLS approved series that is used to allocate federal funds and determine eligibility for federal assistance programs. This series represents employment and unemployment by place of residence and is not comparable to the place-of-work industry employment series (CES data). Workers involved in labor disputes are counted as employed. Total employment in the labor force also includes agricultural workers, unpaid family workers, domestics, and self-employed.

S-2. Prepared by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Research and Analysis Bureau. The unadjusted unemployment rate is prepared by the LAUS program in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The seasonally adjusted rate is an unofficial series and is provided only as an informational economic time-series.

S-3. Prepared by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Research and Analysis Bureau from LAUS data. Data for Congressional Districts, Service Delivery Areas and Labor Force Areas are calculated from the official data series by summing up employment and unemployment for the appropriate counties involved and calculating an unemployment rate from the summed data for each area.

S-4. Prepared by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Research and Analysis Bureau, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Data from the CES (Current Employment Statistics) program represent employment by place-of-work and cover full-time and part-time employees who worked during or received pay for the payroll period that includes the 12th of the month. The data exclude the self-employed, volunteers, unpaid family workers, and domestic workers. Persons on sick leave, vacations, or holidays, and being paid for that period by their employer, are considered employed. Payroll and worker-hour data are collected for production and related workers in manufacturing industries, nonsupervisory workers in private service-producing industries, and construction workers in construction industries. The earnings figures are "gross" figures; that is, they reflect changes in wage rates, shift differentials, and premium pay for overtime work. The hours figures relate to the hours for which pay was received; this is different from scheduled or standard work hours.

S-5. Tabulations produced by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and reprinted by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Research and Analysis Bureau for informational purposes only. This is a national data series because Montana data is not available.

S-6. Prepared by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Research and Analysis Bureau from Unemployment Insurance administrative records and is produced for informational purposes only.

S-7. Prepared by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Unemployment Insurance Division to meet federal reporting requirements (ETA 5159, DE 230, and ETA 2112 Reports) and is reprinted by the Research and Analysis Bureau for informational purposes only.

S-8. Prepared by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Unemployment Insurance Division and is reprinted by the Research and Analysis Bureau for informational purposes only. (DE 230 Report.)

The Montana State Job Service Division maintains 23 local Job Service Offices in principal cities of Montana. You are invited to call on any of these offices for assistance in filling positions in your organization, obtaining additional labor market information and for receiving other services in connection with your employment needs.

LOCAL JOB SERVICE OFFICE LISTING

ANACONDA
307 E. Park
Anaconda, MT 59711
(563-3444)

BILLINGS
Main & Satellite Ofc.
624 N. 24th Street
Billings, MT 59101
(259-5529)

BOZEMAN
121 N. Willson
Bozeman, MT 59715
(586-5455)

BUTTE
206 W. Granite
P.O. Box 309
Butte, MT 59703
(782-0417)

CUT BANK
20 S. Central
Cut Bank, MT 59427
(873-2191)

DILLON
310 E. Sebree
P.O. Box 1300
Dillon, MT 59725
(683-5501)

GLASGOW
238 2nd Ave. S.
Glasgow, MT 59230
(228-9369)

GLENDIVE
211 S. Kendrick
Glendive, MT 59330
(365-3314)

GREAT FALLS
1018 7th St. S.
Great Falls, MT 59405
(761-1730)

HAMILTON
333 Main Street
P.O. Box 73
Hamilton, MT 59840
(363-1822)

HAVRE
416 1st St.
Havre, MT 59501
(265-5847)

HELENA
715 Front Street
Helena, MT 59601
(449-6006)

KALISPELL
427 1st Ave. E.
Kalispell, MT 59901
(752-5627)

LEWISTOWN
300 First Ave. N.
Lewistown, MT 59457
(538-8701)

LIBBY
314 S. Mineral Ave.
Libby, MT 59923
(293-2682)

LIVINGSTON
228 S. Main
P.O. Box 1199
Livingston, MT 59047
(222-0520)

MILES CITY
12 N. 10th
P.O. Box 1786
Miles City, MT 59301
(232-1316)

MISSOULA
539 S. 3rd St. W.
P.O. Box 5027
Missoula, MT 59806
(728-7060)

POLSON
417 Main Street
P.O. Box 970
Polson, MT 59860
(883-5261)

SHELBY
402 1st Street S.
Shelby, MT 59474
(434-5161)

SIDNEY
120 S. Central
Sidney, MT 59270
(482-1204)

THOMPSON FALLS
608 Main Street
P.O. Box 669
Thompson Falls, MT 5
(827-3472)

WOLF POINT
200 Highway 2 East
Wolf Point, MT 59201
(653-1720)

LABOR FORCE AREAS
IN
MONTANA

KALISPELL LFA
LINCOLN
FLATHEAD
SHELBY LFA
GLACIER
TOOLE
PONDERA
HAVRE LFA
HILL
BLAINE
GLASGOW LFA
VALLEY
MISSOULA LFA
MISSOULA
GREAT FALLS MSA
CASCADE
HELENA LFA
LEWISTOWN LFA
FERGUS
JUDITH BASIN
PETROLEUM
GARFIELD
MCCONE
GLENDIVE LFA
DAWSON
RICHLAND
ROOSEVELT
SCOBEY
DANIELS
SHERIDAN
CHOUTEAU
TETON
LIBERTY
CHESTER
BROADWATER
BILLINGS MSA
YELLOWSTONE
STILLWATER
SWEET GRASS
CARBON
RED LODGE
HARDIN - RED LODGE LFA
BIG HORN
CUSTER
POWDER RIVER
CARTER
MILES CITY LFA
ROSEBUD
MUSSELSHELL
GOLDEN VALLEY
WHEATLAND
PARK
BOZEMAN LFA
GALLATIN
MADISON
BEAVERHEAD
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DEER LODGE
GRANITE
RAVALLI
JEFFERSON
SILVER BOW
BUTTE
ANACONDA
TOOLE
LIBERTY
HILL
BLAINE
PHILLIPS
VALLEY
GLASGOW
ROOSEVELT
WOLF POINT
RICHLAND
SIDNEY
GARFIELD
JORDAN
PRAIRIE
TERRY
WIBAUX
FALLON
BAKER
EKALAKA
CARTER
POWDER RIVER
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CARBON
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